

West Virginians may be somewhat stubborn when it comes to asking for help for themselves, even if life itself depends on it; but they are the first in line to offer help and assistance to their neighbors. And in West Virginia, Mr. Speaker, we go a step further. I doubt we have ever known a stranger in any of our 55 counties. If you need help, West Virginians are there for you.

The charitable spirit of West Virginia is built on rock-solid principles. First and foremost, you will find an abundance of faith among those who dwell in our mountains, faith in the Almighty. Families form the core of our lives, with West Virginia parents and grandparents putting their children and grandchildren first. You figure in that a big dose of loyalty to our hills and hollows, our family traditions, our common heritage, and our many unique histories, and you begin to see why hard times cannot keep us down.

Like most of America, West Virginians are in the midst of a transitional economy, but a new dawn is breaking. We have harnessed positive change while holding on to much that makes West Virginia unique, enabling us to attract new and promising ventures.

Witness the 100-year commitment of the Boy Scouts of America's almost half-billion-dollar investment in a Fayette County scouting reserve adjacent to the largest federally protected system of rivers east of the Mississippi. Recently, Wayne Perry, the Boy Scouts' national president, when commenting on our rugged but inviting mountain venue, said, "We think God made West Virginia for the Boy Scouts of America."

Mr. Speaker, I have news for my colleagues and their constituents: we have more room at the inn. This may be our 150th birthday celebration, but West Virginia is still wild and even more wonderful than ever before. So I say to all, come and visit us soon.

To my fellow West Virginians, may I say a happy 150th. And be assured, as long as there is still one Mountaineer heart beating, there will always be a West Virginia.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remind my colleagues in the House of two very important words for the American people: unfinished business. The American people, by their voices that we hear as we go back to our district, challenge us in unfinished business.

Two days ago, I stood with mothers that demand action in my district, to stand with their children, their babies in strollers—these mothers who love America, who are patriots—to stand alongside of the mourning families of Sandy Hook and to read the names of the 26 who died more than 6 months

ago, to ask for the passage of universal background checks; and to ask the question why the Armed Citizens Project needed to arm citizens in Houston. We know that the area that they are arming is an area where they felt intimidated—not by their government to take over, but because of crime.

I look forward to meeting with those citizens to be able to address the issue of crime in their neighborhood. But we stood against the kind of arming citizens as a response to gun violence. I have no qualms of standing against that and working with my neighbors to ensure the safety of their neighborhoods, but to move forward on sensible gun legislation to prevent gun violence—unfinished business.

And then the question of the National Security Agency and the phone calls and numbers of our American citizens.

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We in Congress must be challenged to rein that in and balance it with the need for national security, which I promote and support as a member of the Homeland Security Committee.

I will be introducing legislation to assess the use of outside contractors—70 percent of Federal dollars going to that in the intelligence community—and reduce those numbers by 2014; establish more openness on the FISA court, but making sure that we don't interfere with operations and operatives that are making our country secure. And to be able to say to Mr. Snowden, I won't call you a name, but I know what you did in certain instances is wrong, and you must stand up under the laws of this Nation.

Then to be able to say that, today, as we go forward on the farm bill, to be able to ask the question: Why are we taking \$20 billion away from the supplemental nutrition program, from seniors, from young children, from babies, when this is a lifeline for those in the United States military who are on food stamps?

I also want to say to my community that we need to get ready to enroll in health care, which is going to be a major step in making America healthy.

To the small business community, this is going to help you provide your employees—your one employee, your two employees—health care. That is unfinished business.

Then I want to thank the U.S. Postal Service—the letter carriers, the people who put our mail through—who help small businesses. We've got to fix this problem with the U.S. Postal Service, make sure that they're stable, financially able. The rural post offices, let's not close any more. This is the infrastructure of America. It's a job creator.

And then to our students, many of them who have graduated, we have got to fix the problem of the increasing, or the major increase, in student loan interest rates that are going to burden our parents and students, 6.8 percent by July 1. Congress can do better. We

need to be able to join in the legislation that I've signed on to, to be able to keep that interest rate at 3.4 percent. Unfinished business, Mr. Speaker.

The American people want jobs. They don't want sequestration. They want the right kind of comprehensive immigration reform that has reasoned border security but not to criminalize those students who wanted to do nothing else but to go into the United States military, called "DREAM children," who wanted to be able to serve the Nation, who wanted to work and give back to this country. Let us not go down that pathway. Let's have the kind of value-based comprehensive immigration reform and border security legislation that was passed out of the Homeland Security Committee, of which I was proud to be an original cosponsor, coming out of the Subcommittee on Border and Maritime Security. Unfinished business.

Guns. Preventing gun violence.

Reining in the issue of intelligence, balancing it with civil liberties, putting back in the supplemental nutrition some \$20 billion, making sure that Americans are enrolled in health care under the Affordable Care Act, supporting the Postal Service. And, Mr. Speaker, finally, supporting our students. Unfinished business. It's time to get to work creating jobs in America.

JOBS NOW ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WILSON of Florida) for 5 minutes.

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, the American people are now in the 899th day of a scandal that is truly "worse than Watergate." Yet, this scandal has nothing to do with Cincinnati or the AP or Benghazi or even NSA. It is the scandal of this Republican Congress failing to bring a single serious bill to address our unemployment crisis to the floor for a vote.

The tens of millions of people affected by this scandal are not constantly on television drawing attention to their plight; they're too busy looking for work. They're not hiring lobbyists to press for change; they're too busy figuring out how they're going to pay for their next meals, for the roofs over their heads, or for their children's college tuition.

Mr. Speaker, this scandal, unlike so many other scandals in history, is one that you can end instantly. You have the power to bring the Jobs Now Act to the floor for a vote. It deserves a vote.

Mr. Speaker, the only scandal that matters to the American people right now is this Congress' failure to address unemployment. Our mantra should be: jobs, jobs, jobs for the American people.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair